

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-02 ORM-02 /084 W
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P 160530Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9824
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 3334

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SHUM, ID, PT, AS
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN CHARGES OF INDONESIAN ATROCITIES IN TIMOR

REF: A. STATE 556741 B. JAKARTA 3166

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS DEPARTMENT FOLLOW GENERAL APPROACH OUTLINED REF B IF ASKED TO TESTIFY IN DUNN HEARINGS. INDONESIANS HAVE SUBMITTED REQUESTS FOR POSTPONEMENT OF HEARINGS, WHICH THEY UNDERSTAND HAVE BEEN DENIED. ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED INVITATION TO PRESENT TESTIMONY, THEY ARE PLANNING IF INVITED TO SEND TWO TIMORESE AND PERHAPS OTHERS AS WITNESSES. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER POSTPONEMENT REQUEST DENIED AND WHETHER INDONESIANS ARE BEING INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN HEARINGS. END SUMMARY

2. REFTELS APPARENTLY CROSSED. DUNN'S CHARGES AS OUTLINED REF A DIFFER IN DETAIL AND IN SOURCES CITED FROM THOSE IN REPORT FURNISHED US BY AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY. WE HAVE AGAIN RESEARCHED OUR FILES AND CAN FIND NO CONFIRMATION OF ALLEGED EVENTS MENTIONED BY DUNN'S SOURCES EXCEPT FOR DA CRUZ STATEMENT REGARDING 60,000 CASUALTIES, WHICH, AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, WAS LATER CLARIFIED TO INCLUDE REFUGEES. WE HAVE
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NO RECORD OF DA CRUZ REPEATING AFTERWARDS THAT 50,000 TIMORESE HAD BEEN MASACRED. WE ALSO HAVE NO RECORD AND DOUBT AUTHENTICITY OF INDONESIAN RED CROSS REPORT OF 50,000 FATALITIES. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY COULD ALSO THROW NOLIGHT ON THESE ALLEGATIONS.

3. WE RECOMMEND THAT GENERAL APPROACH OUTLINED IN EMBASSY'S SUGGESTION FOR ADDITIONAL LETTER TO CONGRESSMAN FRASER (REF B)

BE USED IF DEPARTMENT IS ASKED TO TESTIFY.

4. INDONESIANS ARE NOW DRAWING UP PLANS TO RESPOND TO DUNN'S CHARGES BUT FEEL THAT TIME ALLOWED THEM TO PREPARE THEIR CASE IS UNFAIRLY RESTRICTED. ACCORDING TO CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES REP LIM BIAN KIE, PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT ALI MURTOPO ON MARCH 15 CABLED CONGRESSMAN FRASER ASKING FOR POSTPONEMENT OF HEARINGS. LIM ASKED THAT STATE DEPARTMENT SUPPORT THIS REQUEST. AMBASSADOR RUSMIN TOLD AMBASSADOR THIS MORNING, HOWEVER, THAT COMMITTEE HAS REFUSED INDONESIAN EMBASSY'S REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT.

5. RUSMIN TOLD AMBASSADOR AND FONDEPT DIRGEN FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS DARUSMAN TOLD AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR THAT INDONESIANS PREPARING TIMORESE LOPEZ DA CRUZ AND CARRASCALAO AS WITNESSES. LIM BIAN KIE SAID INDONESIANS WERE ALSO COMTEMPLATING TRYING TO PERSUADE GOA TO SEND AUSTRALIAN REX SYDDELL, FORMER RESIDENT OF TIMOR NOW LIVING NEAR JAKARTA, TO WASHINGTON TO TESTIFY ON GOI'S BEHALF, BUT RUSMIN TOLD AMBASSADOR HE OPPOSES USING SYDDELL. RUSMIN SAID GOI HAS NOT AS YET RECEIVED COMMITTEE INVITATION TO PRESENT TESTIMONY. TWENTY-FOUR AMBASSADORS INCLUDING RUSMIN WILL LEAVE FOR TIMOR TOMORROW (MARCH 17) TO GAIN FIRST HAND IMPRESSION OF CURRENT SITUATION TO BE USED IN PRESENTING INDONESIAN CASE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. LIM BIAN KIE AND RUSMIN SAID THAT CONGRESSMAN FRASER WOULD ALSO BE INVITED TO VISIT TIMOR.

6. RUSMIN TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT GOI HAD AS YET RECEIVED NO INFORMATION REGARDING CHARGES DUNN WILL MAKE ASIDE FROM THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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BASED ON DA CRUZ'S STATEMENT OF 60,000 CASUALTIES. AT HIS REQUEST, WE ARE PROVIDING HIM SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL ALLEGATIONS MENTIONED REF A AND IN REPORT PROVIDED US BY AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY.

7. AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR WOOLCOTT SAID FONMIN PEACOCK, WHOSE VISIT TO WASHINGTON WILL COINCIDE WITH CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR HEARINGS, HAS PAPERS ON DUNN MATTER AND MAY AT SOME POINT MAKE PUBLIC COMMENT REFUTING AT LEAST SOME ASPECTS OF DUNN'S CHARGES. AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED TO WOOLCOTT THAT DUNN'S CHARGES POSED IMMEDIATE THREAT TO CONTINUATION OF U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO INDONESIA AND THAT THERE IS EARLY NEED TO PLACE THEM IN THEIR PROPER PERSPECTIVE.

8. ACTION REQUESTED. WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER FRASER COMMITTEE HAS REFUSED INDONESIAN REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF HEARINGS AND, IF SO, COMMITTEE'S REASONS FOR DOING SO. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE KNOWING WHETHER COMMITTEE HAS EXTENDED OR INTENDS TO EXTEND INVITATION TO INDONESIANS TO PRESENT TESTIMONY. IF NOT, CAN DEPARTMENT

ENCOURAGE COMMITTEE TO DO SO.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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